

Highlights

West Linn is a great place to live, especially for families, with a strong sense of safety.

About 9 out of 10 respondents gave favorable ratings to West Linn as a place to live and to the overall quality of life in the city. A similar proportion of residents also indicated that they would both recommend living in West Linn and planned to remain in West Linn for the next five years. Each of these was on par with comparison communities across the nation. Most respondents (91%) considered the city an excellent or good place to raise children, exceeding the national average. In addition, the scores for K-12 education in West Linn were higher than in benchmark communities, with 84% of respondents rating it favorably.

Strong overall feelings of safety, along with safety-related services, contribute to the high quality of life experienced in West Linn. An overwhelming majority of respondents reported feeling safe in their neighborhood during the day (96% very or somewhat safe), in West Linn's downtown area during the day (95%), and from violent crime (92%). Nearly 90% of the survey respondents positively rated the overall feeling of safety in West Linn. More than 9 out of 10 residents gave high marks to the City's fire services and ambulance or emergency medical services, and at least three-quarters did the same for fire prevention and education services, crime prevention, and police/sheriff services. All ratings pertaining to safety in West Linn were similar to the scores seen in counterpart communities across the nation.

Residents appreciate many aspects of the city's economy and highlight some potential areas for growth.

When asked to rate the overall economic health of West Linn, almost 8 out of 10 respondents considered it to be excellent or good. A similar proportion of residents also identified the city's economic health as an essential or very important area of focus for the next two years. Over half of the residents viewed West Linn as an excellent or good place to visit and work, on par with national averages. Similarly, about half positively rated both the vibrancy of West Linn's downtown areas and the city's economic development. These ratings were also consistent with those observed in other communities across the nation. However, a few survey items fell below national benchmark comparisons, indicating an opportunity for further focus. Fewer positive ratings were given to the variety of business and service establishments (45% excellent or good), employment opportunities (27%), shopping opportunities (27%), and cost of living (24%) in West Linn. In addition, when asked about the impact the economy would likely have on their family income in the next six months, only 14% of survey respondents anticipated the impact to be positive. All of these ratings were lower than in comparison communities.

While car travel is a strength for West Linn, alternate modes of transportation may present an opportunity for growth.

Residents positively rated the ease of travel by car (72% excellent or good), ease of public parking (61%), and ease of walking (59%) in West Linn. Traffic flow on major streets received excellent or good reviews from about 4 in 10. Services such as street lighting (68% excellent or good), traffic signal timing (63%), and street cleaning (62%) were also rated positively. All of these were on par with benchmark comparison communities nationwide. While most survey items pertaining to car travel were strong and scored similar to national benchmarks, street repair services received less favorable evaluations (32% excellent or good, lower than the benchmarks).

Alternate modes of transportation may also be an area of potential growth for the City. When asked whether they had walked or biked instead of driving in the last 12 months, at least two-thirds of the survey respondents responded affirmatively; this rate of participation was higher than the national average. In contrast, residents gave lower-than-average ratings to the ease of travel by bicycle (29% excellent or good) in West Linn. In addition, ratings for the city's bus or transit services (27%) and the ease of travel by public transportation (18%) were both lower than the national benchmarks.

Residents value West Linn's utility infrastructure and related services.

Almost three-quarters of survey respondents positively rated the overall quality of West Linn's utility infrastructure. Additionally, when asked about focus areas for the city in the next two years, 87% of residents identified the overall utility infrastructure as a priority. Reviews for sewer services (91% excellent or good), garbage collection (89%), drinking water (87%), power utility (86%), and stormwater management (84%) were all strong. At least three-quarters felt favorably about the city's utility billing services, and half were pleased with affordable high-speed internet access. These ratings were all similar to national averages with the exception of drinking water and stormwater management, which were both rated higher than the benchmark comparison communities.